

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, South Carolina's four major racial and ethnic minority groups account for nearly 34 percent of the state's population; and

WHEREAS, significant health disparities, including differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden, exist among minority groups for preventable health conditions and diseases like cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, infant mortality, and immunizations; and

WHEREAS, even though improvements have been made in the health status of most South Carolinians during the past decade, the overall health status of the state's minority population is poor and their death rate for preventable disease greatly exceeds that of other residents; and

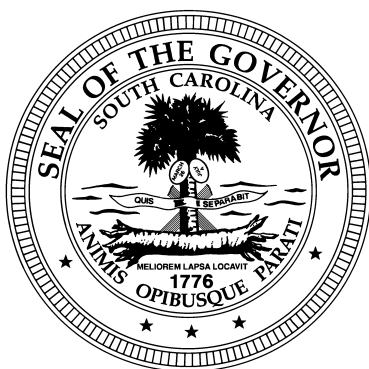
WHEREAS, public awareness and culturally appropriate health education, disease prevention, and health care services are essential to improving the health of racial and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 observance of Minority Health Month provides an opportunity to build partnerships and share information and knowledge in an effort to eliminate health disparities for all minorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2004 as

MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to incorporate healthy lifestyle choices into their daily lives while working together to provide culturally appropriate health services to minorities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", is written over a horizontal line.

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA